

REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, 12-14, 17-18, 20, 22-23, 25 and 27-28 remain in this application.

In paragraph 11 of the Office action the examiner indicated claims 11, 12, 15, 19, 24 and 26 to be directed toward allowable subject matter. In view of this indication by the examiner, the language of claim 11 has been incorporated into claim 9, so that claim 9 and the claims which depend on it should now be allowable.

Claims 11, 15, 16, 19, 21, 24 and 26 have been canceled.

In paragraph 2 of the Office action the examiner objected to the specification for referring to claim 1. In actuality, this was corrected in the preliminary amendment of October 2005. However, so as to make sure this issue is not overlooked, the change to paragraph 9 has been resubmitted by this amendment.

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office action the examiner objected to the drawings for not showing reference numbers 36A and 36B, as recited in paragraph 51 of the specification. In view of the examiner's objection, reference character 36A has been added to figure 12 and reference character 36B has been added to figure 11. Both of these reference characters have been added to figure 6. Even though these partitions are not recited in the claims so that their showing in the drawings is not necessarily essential, their inclusion in the drawings does help to complete the disclosure.

The examiner objected to the drawings for not showing means for subjecting the guideways to suction as recited in claim 16. Since it would be difficult to add such means to the drawings without adding new matter, claim 16 has been canceled.

The examiner also objected to the drawings for not showing “wherein adjacent guide flaps are separated from one another across a gap, which is preferably defined by a step in the bearing region of at least one of the adjacent guide flaps.” In response to this objection, it is requested that the examiner consider paragraph 53 of the specification, particularly as modified by the preliminary amendment. The language of paragraph 53 describes how “The spacing between two adjacent guide flaps 24A and 24B is defined by an annular shoulder or step 37A and 37B, respectively, a few tenths of a millimeter high, which surrounds a respective bearing bore 38A and 38B, by way of which the respective guide flap 24A and 24B is suspended from the pivot shaft 31.” When this description is considered in view of figures 11, 12 and 6, it becomes clear how the guide flaps are “separated from one another across a gap, which is preferably defined by a step in the bearing region of at least one of the adjacent guide flaps.”

In furtherance of correcting this issue, changes have been made to claims 13-14, and claim 15 has been canceled. The changes to claims 13 and 14, along with an understanding of paragraph 53, plus the showing in figures 6, 11 and 12 are certainly considered sufficient to overcome this objection to the drawings.

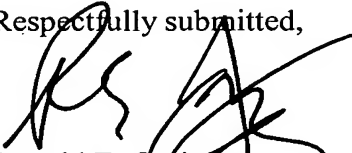
In paragraph 6 of the Office action the examiner rejected claims 9-28 as indefinite. In view of the examiner’s comments the wording of claims 9 and 13-14 has been revised. Again, it is believed that these changes overcome the issues raised by the examiner in paragraph 6 of the Office action.

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In view of the changes made by this amendment, as well as considering that the drawings show a shoulder which separates the guide flaps by a small gap, it is considered that all of the various objections and rejections made by the examiner in the Office action have been overcome.

Accordingly, entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In paragraphs 3-4 the examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing reference numbers 36A and 36B, as recited in paragraph 51 of the specification. To correct this reference character 36A has been added to figure 12, and reference character 36B has been added to figure 11. Both of these reference characters have been added to figure 6. These reference characters have lead lines to the thin partition of elements 24A and 24B respectively.